

Welcome to the first Cromarty e-newsletter!

No Images? [Click here](#)



Sparks Will Fly! (within safety limits of course)

The spectacular annual bonfire and fireworks display will take place this Friday (2nd November) in the usual spot on Cromarty Links. The line-up is as follows:

6.00pm - Stalls open: hot food, baking, mulled wine & hot chocolate to purchase (courtesy of Cromarty Primary School Parent Council & Sutor Creek) plus sparklers & light-up toys

6.30pm - the mighty bonfire is lit by current Gala Queen, Maisie Graham

6.45pm - young piper, Oran Silverside, entertains the crowds

7.00pm - FIREWORKS - an even bigger and better display than usual, in memory of former Cromarty resident and Fireworks Night stalwart, Pete Clunas.

7.30 - 8.00pm - enjoy the last of the food & drink and watch the dying embers of the fire

Bonfire Material: as usual there is a need for combustible material for the bonfire (no mattresses, etc or other noxious matter). If you have any wood, etc, that you wish to donate, please take it to the Links on Thursday evening or Friday morning.

If you are unable to take it there, there is a limited collection service so leave anything out front and accessible and contact MATT GRIST on 07711 686574 OR matthew.grist@btopenworld.com

We are short of helpers to collect and build the fire this year so if you can spare a few hours on the day, please LET MATT KNOW OR JUST MEET ON THE LINKS AT 8.30AM on FRIDAY 2nd. If you have a vehicle and trailer, even better!

The event is generously supported this year by Global Energy, Cromarty Brewing Company and Calico.

Additional fundraising efforts were aided by raffle prizes donated by: Cromarty Stores, Sutor Creek, Couper's Creek, Gardiner & Gardiner, Ecoventures, The Cheese House, Highland Stoves, The Emporium, Ingrid's House, Cromarty Arms

You can still win a night's B&B in a Superior Room at The Royal Hotel by playing Lucky Squares in Cromarty Post Office - only £3 per square, prize value £125! What a lovely treat or present for someone! Thanks to The Royal Hotel for this great donation.



Cromarty Retailers/Restaurateurs Gearing Up For Christmas... and beyond

Exciting times for Sutor Creek as they've finally secured additional land and planning permission to extend their kitchen facilities. The development takes place over the coming months with a re-opening scheduled for Spring next year. In the meantime they are collaborating with Cromarty Arts Trust to create a pop-up restaurant at the Old Brewery including special events, such as their popular Tapas Nights, through the winter. For further information and booking details go to:

www.sutorcreek.co.uk

Ingrid's House, Calluna and Coupers Creek are joining forces to do 2 Christmas Shopping Evenings on the 1st and the 22nd of November from 6pm-9pm. Both Calluna and Ingrid's House will be open and there will be some

mulled wine and nibbles for the shoppers at Coupers Creek. It will be the first peek at Ingrid's Scandinavian Christmas gifts and decorations and Calluna also have Christmas specials on offer. The shops will then be open 7 days a week in the run up to, and including, Christmas Eve.

The Bakery, Post Office, Cheese House and Stores on Bank Street worked together to make it a Hallowe'en to remember for the youngsters who dared to go 'trick or treating'. Thanks to Marcel and Kitty at the Stores for organising.

Plenty Going On At West Church Hall

Cromarty playgroup meet every Tuesday of term time 10-11.30. It's a small informal friendly group. If you have a wee one and haven't given it a go, just turn up and you'll be made to feel very welcome - or talk to Denise MacFarlane on 07769170773

Cromarty Care Project are running drop-in table tennis sessions each Monday morning from 10.30 - 12 noon at the West Church Hall - for anyone over 18. All abilities welcome. Enjoy a relaxed knock up with a cup of coffee too. It's great for your brain, great for your heart and for your happiness! Optional donations. (If you are in need of care contact the Single point of access in Dingwall 01349 860460 or Angie Macdonald coordinator of Cromarty Care project on 07771621690).

This month's History Society talk should be a fascinating one. 'The Great North Road: the story of the A9' presented by Jim Miller. It's bound to give you something new to reflect on next time you're heading north or south. Thursday 15th November at 7.30pm. All welcome! Go to www.cromartyhistory.scot for more information

... and Victoria Hall

Cromarty Care Project is also exploring the potential for Cycling Without Age - where less able folk can still get out for an invigorating bike ride but someone younger and fitter does all the peddling! If you want to find out more there is a demonstration of how the scheme could work at the Fourways session on 15th November (2-4pm) Talk to

Shirley Matheson (451) or Anne Short (343) if you'd like to know more. www.cyclingwithoutage.scot

News from Cromarty Peace Group

Recent events have been :

September 1st. We joined forces with HANT (Highlands against nuclear transport) to organise a demonstration at Inverness Railway Station to highlight the risks of trains regularly carrying nuclear materiel through Inverness. One such train had recently gone through a red light at Kingussie! While not popular with the station manager it was reported by several newspapers and by local radio. It also prompted a statement from Inverness MP Drew Hendry asking for such transports to be stopped pending an enquiry.

September 22nd. International Rally at Faslane Naval Base. At least 13 of us attended this major event calling for the UK to abandon it's nuclear weapons and sign the recent UN treaty already espoused by over 100 countries. Speakers included Jackie Kay and Kathy Galloway.

September 30th. 24 Syrian Refugees visited Cromarty from Dingwall with various helpers and enjoyed a walk round the harbour, lots of Arabic food, and then some Scottish and Arabic singing and dancing.

The Peace Group was formed in the run up to the Iraq War. It is not a constituted body, has no office holders, but is essentially an e mail list which gets together to organise a wide variety of events. Activities range from organising parliamentary hustings, getting arrested at Faslane Naval Base and attending marches to film nights, silent vigils and reading poetry. If you would like to be notified of forthcoming meetings the contact is simonevans55@outlook.com

The group isn't sure what they will do next but as they say: 'the next idea always seems to arrive from someone'.



Members of the Peace Group outside Faslane in September.

Down On The Water

Bruce Morrison of the **Cromarty Community Rowing Club** writes:

A little history first. Coastal rowing in Scotland has been on the up and up since 2010 when the St Ayles Skiff was developed as a self build community based rowing boat. There are now over 200 skiffs in existence with 177 in the UK alone. In early 2016 CCRC was founded with the aim of obtaining funding to build a skiff.

As those of you who have seen our white and red skiff Cromba rowing off the town since spring 2016, at all hours of the day and night (we haven't quite resorted to using head torches yet but...) the aim was successfully achieved.

No one could have foreseen how successful the club would be, we now have over 200 rowers and the boat is out every day for several hours. Cromarty have competed in several regattas, not to mention co hosting the amazingly successful Black Isle Regatta 2018 in the town along with our good pals Avoch Community Rowing Club, and have won several medals, including 2 golds, and were incredibly chuffed to win the overall regatta at Findhorn in September.

Due to the amazing number of members it was decided that we needed another skiff! Thanks to an incredibly kind donation from the family of the late Ian Robertson, the clubs heartfelt thanks go out to Rachel, Vaila, Kerr and Owen, we now have a brand new skiff about to be launched, the skiff is to be called Tess, poe"tess", after Ian's boat.

Everyone is most welcome to the launching ceremony on Saturday the 24th of November at midday. We expect to have a number of skiffs from neighbouring clubs over for the event so it should be a good spectacle.

And a call-out for your support from Wanda...

"The Rowing Club have been shortlisted to receive a £15000 grant from Scotmid to assist in the building of the proposed boat shed. It's all decided based on votes from locals. We need you and all your friends to become Scotmid members to help us out you pay £1.00 for membership and that's it, you will receive a ten pound voucher to use in store and a Connect card so every time you shop in a Scotmid. The result will be in April but you need to get the card early to be eligible to start logging your votes."

You can keep up with CCRC on their Facebook page or on the recently revamped website:

www.cromartyrowing.org.uk Please get in touch if you fancy giving it a go!



The Harbour Working Group have started using a £100k grant from European Maritime Fisheries Fund

(FLAG). The harbour now has new railings up to the bridge and the FLAG project will allow us to replace (or repair) the remaining railings, ladders, sheds, lighting and electricity supply.

Recently the Harbour Working Group has also been successful in being granted a further £59k from SSE Community Fund. The SSE grant will allow the Group to meet the matched funding required for FLAG with a little to spare for some repairs. As you will soon see, we will be having a dredge in the harbour during November, this will help give vessels better access and may enable us to increase berthing capacity in the future.

Arts and Entertainment

Film Festival

(Note: the following piece is published as submitted, with no input from the editor!)

The Cromarty Film Festival is now in its 12th year, having matured like a slice of Cromarty Cheese Shop's *Old Goat* since its birth in 2007, where it emerged as part of the town's community celebrations of the Highland Year of Culture. It has now established itself firmly as part of the Black Isle 's Winter landscape, kicking-off the Christmas season for many of us.

In the past, invited guests have included musicians, actors, directors, politicians, technicians, comedians, writers, critics and more. In short, anyone who likes film qualifies to be our guest, and to share with us their own cinema-going memories and their very favourite films.

This year , as in the past few years, we have the luck to have the screen machine here , so we'll be showing a selection of new films alongside our favourite film strand. The full programme takes us from poetry to zombies; Orwell to monster-making; Brixton D.J.s to Katherine Hepburn via Mr Incredible, Cher and an Irish tragedy at the height of the Troubles.

It's always an eclectic feast of film, and it takes place in various (sometimes unusual) locations round the town . There is sure to be something for everyone at some point during the weekend, from its opening event of animated

shorts projected onto the Stevenson lighthouse to the Gala finale - always a rollocking good film, a customary raffle, and a classic *Gabi's* curry.

The weekend runs from Friday 30th November to Sunday 2nd December. Our full programme and special guests will be announced in early November. Tickets will be on sale from Saturday 17th November, available at Ardyne. (If you can't make the festival, our film society runs all year showing films at least once a month, with more news on that to come...)

Arts Trust Events

Sing Your Heart Out - one day workshop with Kate O'Connell. Sat 3 Nov, Stables, 10am - 4pm. £30
Experimental Drawing Workshop with CAT Artist-in-Residence, Kuzana Ogg. Sun 4th Nov, Stables, 2-5pm. £30

Advance booking required for either of the above:

info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk Further details:

www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk

Christmas Market, Old Brewery - Preview Night on Friday 23rd Nov, 6-8pm with mulled wine, mince pies, music; Sat 24th & Sun 25th Nov, 10.30am - 4pm. Crack your Christmas shopping in one fell swoop! Attractive, quality crafts and other non-craft goodies galore in a cosy, festive environment.

Hugh Miller Cottage and Museum

Alix Powers-Jones writes:

'We are into the "shoulder months" now at Hugh Miller's which means we are only open to visitors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for the month of October; then we close to visitors at the end of the month.

However, that does not mean that we are idle! We are preparing for the winter, planning the budgets and putting together a programme of informal talks for the public over the closed season.

Tuesday Talks

At 10am each Tuesday morning you are invited to join us in the main Miller House Museum to hear an informal

talk. There is a charge of £3 per person (coffee and cake included) and the talks will last about 40 minutes each. In November the topics are:

Tuesday 6th November: Dr. Jim Mackay on Hugh Miller and Kirkmichael.

Tuesday 13th November: Martin Gostwick on The Friends of Hugh Miller.

Tuesday 20th November: Erik Lundberg on the Wardlaw Mausoleum.

Tuesday 27th November: Duncan Cook on The archaeology & geography of Culloden.

Also, on 1st December we will be starting the 2018 "Window on the World" Community Exhibition. Each day in Advent the display in the street-facing window of the Birthplace Cottage will change to reveal another mini exhibition on the theme of "Gifts". Can't wait to see what is produced'.

Writer's Corner

David Ross has written a book about his 30 years covering the Highlands and Islands for the Herald newspaper. It starts and finishes here in Cromarty, where he and his family have lived since they arrived in the summer of 1988. 'Highland Herald' is published by Birlinn and will be available at Cromarty Post Office soon, price £12.99. Buy a copy and track David down - he's sure to be happy to sign it!

Local writer **Theo Seller**, known to many through his involvement with the Murder Mystery Plays and comedy acts for Gluren bij de Buren, is venturing into the world of podcasting. A series of radio-style dramas based on the curious goings-on in the fictitious Highland fishing village of Blackhaven will be released periodically in 20 minute episodes, the first one having just been released on 30th October. They feature many local voices playing the different characters - see if you can spot them when you listen to Episode 1:

<https://blackhaven.scot/2018/10/29/podcast-episode-one-its-not-over-till-the-hairy-man-sings/>



[And finally... a round-up of news from Cromarty Community Development Trust.](#)

CCDT has a new chairman. He is a native Black Isler, but not everyone will know him. A former pupil at Cullicudden Primary and Dingwall Academy, David Fraser spent much of his working life abroad in the likes of Australia, India and Singapore.

He had a varied but high-powered career which included being First Managing Director of Microsoft Europe, founder Chairman of Infobank plc (a pioneering ecommerce exchange, precursor of Amazon and eBay), running a Listed company in telecom switches and an electronic book publishing company which specialised in academic work.

He retired to the Cromarty area in 2007 and lives with his dog Mr Wilson (formerly resident in Gillian Newman's house) and cats at Farness. Until early in 2018, he was Chairman of Strathspey Railway Charitable Trust and still serves on the Board of Calman Trust in Inverness – working with disadvantaged young adults from the Inner Moray Firth area. He is a member of the Cromarty Camera Club.

Trees/Dairy. David brings many things to the work of the development trust, but so far the most important has been his chain-saw. He along with other directors and the trust's thrift shop working group, have spent two weekends so far tidying up the old dairy and the surrounding area. This is with a view to operating a thrift shop in the old dairy on a pop-up basis. Most of the trees

have been felled at the front and the side, but more work is needed to be done at the back.



Volunteers get some autumn exercise at Townlands Barn.

Quiz. David was also one of those present at the development trust's quiz in the Cromarty Arms on October 20. As it fell during the holiday fortnight and clashed with other events, it was quieter than we had hoped. But we still had fun and raised just over £430, which was a good result.

Slipways. The trust has formed a group whose aim is to secure the ferry operation by upgrading the decaying slipways here and at Nigg; and to manage/provide for the increasing number of motorhomes arriving in Cromarty. To this end, it was agreed that the group members should prepare and lodge a note of interest for the North Coast 500 Infrastructure Fund, ahead of a full funding application next year.

Townlands Barn. A meeting has been organised at the Muir of Ord hub as they have successfully developed a similar project. Meanwhile an application is being prepared for submission to the Architectural Heritage Fund for a feasibility study on the future use of the barn.

Housing. The housing surveys have been completed and information is now available and being forwarded to Albyn Housing, Highland Council and the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust. A meeting with Albyn Housing is being organised.

If anyone wants to help with any of these projects, please get in touch with a CCDT director: David Fraser; Estelle Quick; Jacquie Ross; Sheila Currie; David Ross; Greg Fullarton; Nigel Shapcott; Ronald Young

or contact: ccdt-main@googlegroups.com

We hope you've enjoyed this first edition of what is intended to be a regular monthly publication. If you have any comments or suggestions, or better still want to contribute items for inclusion in future editions, please get in touch. How about a regular cartoon, or a guest editor? We're open to everything! The contact is: editor@cromartylive.co.uk

The editorial team is: Jon Palmer, Jeremy Price, David Ross, Laura Shepherd

This edition was sponsored by The Cheese House.

Cromarty Live



[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)